



For immediate release

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**Greenwood Parks and Recreation Department
Announces Public Meeting on Freedom Park**

GREENWOOD, INDIANA (January 24, 2008) -- The Greenwood Parks and Recreation Department will hold a public meeting to seek citizen input on a proposed bond issue for the development of Freedom Park, the city's largest community park.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Greenwood Community Center, located at 100 Surina Way, Greenwood, Indiana, 46143.

Greenwood residents are invited to attend the meeting to review plans for a proposed \$11.5 million bond issue that will be used to fund the development of Freedom Park, a 72-acre park located west of Averitt Road between Apryl Drive and Cutsinger Road.

The city purchased the property in 2005 to help meet the needs of a growing community, said Mike Sawa, president of the Greenwood Park Board. Extensive research, including resident surveys and public meetings, has been done by the Parks & Recreation Department to help guide the development of Freedom Park.

"This facility has been designed with every member of our community in mind," Sawa said. "Freedom Park is an investment in our community and our future. The park will enhance the quality of life, improve health and fitness, attract economic development, preserve valuable open space and help make Greenwood a better place to live, work and play."

The Park Board is seeking a General Obligation Bond to pay for Phase 1 construction costs at Freedom Park, which would include roads, parking lots, walking trails, a maintenance building and a new swimming pool.

The current Greenwood City Pool was opened in 1958. The facility loses money each summer, is in need of major repairs, is not handicap accessible and doesn't offer the play

features and modern amenities that the public wants to use, said Evan Springer, executive director of the Greenwood Parks & Recreation Department.

The Park Board has proposed a \$6.5 million pool with a zero-depth entry for easy access, slides and other active play features, a spray area, lap pool, lazy river and a picnic area. The pool would be about 20 percent larger than the existing 50-year-old pool and would have a daily admission fee of \$4 to \$5 for city residents.

“This pool is more than affordable and would truly have something for everyone in the community,” Springer said. “We would have water aerobics and river walking as well as other aquatic programs for the adults. The children would have slides and other play features. And the zero-depth entry makes it easy and safe for anyone to enter the pool.”

The remainder of the park would be developed over time as money is available in the Parks & Recreation Department’s budget, Springer said. Future development would include playgrounds, shelters, restrooms, football fields, soccer fields, softball fields, basketball and tennis courts, a dog park, nature area with a reflection pond, formal gardens with an outdoor wedding area, a sledding/sunbathing hill and a war memorial.

For more information, please contact the Greenwood Parks and Recreation Department at (317) 881-4545, or visit www.greenwood.in.gov, click on “Departments” and pull down to “Parks & Recreation.”